

OUTGOING
TELEGRAMINDICATE: ☐ C C F T -
☐ CHARGE TO

Department of State

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Classification

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1955 OCT 16 PM 4

DC/T

V. J. J. J. J. J.

SENT TO: Amembassy MOSCOW 243

RPTD INFO: HICOG BERLIN 259

HICOG BONN 1227

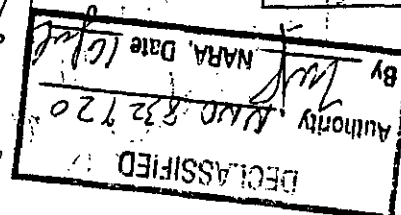
USPOLAD HEIDELBERG 15

Amembassy VIENNA 1175

Amlegation HELSINKI 164

Origin

Info:



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According press reports from Vienna, returning Austrian war prisoners state two Americans, H. H. Cox, 33, of Oklahoma, and Leland Towers, about 28, of San Francisco, are being held in Soviet prison camp Sverdlov, No. 6118, about 150 miles northeast of Moscow and that third American being held in camp in Urals. Returnees report Cox arrested East Berlin 1949 and sentenced 53 years in prison, later reduced to 25; and that Towers believed arrested by Soviets near Soviet-Finnish border 1950.

We have developed information here that Private Homer H. Cox 33, of Oklahoma City, Service No. 19303498, has been absent from duty with 759th Military Police Service Battalion, Berlin, since September 5, 1949; and that Leland Towers, 29, of San Francisco, who had been travelling Northern Europe as tourist, was last heard from by his mother, Irene A. Towers on October 3, 1951. Towers was bearer passport 185803 issued April 7, 1948, renewed

at Goteborg

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at Goteborg, Sweden April 3, 1950 to full validity. No record application new passport.

Subject any alternative suggestions you may have and receipt any further information from other addresses pursuant following paragraph, believe Embassy officer should call on Foreign Office soonest and deliver note reflecting above information, urgently requesting report on full circumstances surrounding detention these Americans, and requesting immediate opportunity interview them.

Berlin, Bonn and Heidelberg pass appropriate military authorities requesting any pertinent information on Cox, especially whether Cox case ever taken up with Soviet military Germany. Vienna endeavor verify and obtain all possible amplification reports which apparently originated UP Vienna. Any knowledge Towers in Helsinki? All report Department and Embassy Moscow.

Smith SMITH
acting
(ws)